

REMARKS

In response to the Decision on Appeal dated August 14, 2003 (Paper No. 25), Applicants respectfully request the present application be remanded to the Examiner for consideration of this Amendment filed under 37 CFR §1.196(b)(1). Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-6 and 8-10, and 12 will remain pending in this application. New claims 15-22 are added. The amendments to the claims as well as the newly added claims are fully supported by the specification and original claims. No new matter is incorporated by this Amendment. In addition, no additional claim fees are believed due as a result of this Amendment.

Claim 1 has been amended by incorporation of previous claims 7 and 14. As a result, claims 7 and 14 have been cancelled. Dependent claims 2-6 and 9, 10, and 12 all ultimately depend from newly amended claim 1. Since claim 14 was not included in either of the new rejections issued in the Decision on Appeal, claims 1-6 and 9, 10, and 12 are considered to be in condition for allowance.

In addition, claim 8 was amended by rewriting it in independent form including all of the limitations of previous claim 1 and claim 2 from which claim 8 previously depended. New claims 15-22 have been added and correspond to dependent claims 3, 4, 6 and 9-13 except that claims 15-22 all ultimately depend from independent claim 8. Accordingly, since claim 8 was not included in either of the new rejections issued in the Decision on Appeal, claims 8 and 15-22 are also considered to be in condition for allowance.

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Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment and the above Remarks obviate the outstanding rejections in this case, thereby placing the application in condition for immediate allowance. Allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

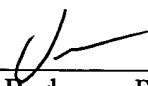
If any fees under 37 CFR §§ 1.16 or 1.17 are due in connection with this filing, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 033082.003.

If an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is necessary that is not accounted for in the papers filed herewith, such an extension is requested. The extension fee should be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 033082.003.

Respectfully submitted,

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